

temporary absence might, if they were misrepresented or detached from their context, give rise to the impression that he intended to leave England permanently.

Burnet, who did not know William's real plans, misconstrued his words in this way. But Burnet does not go nearly so far as Macaulay. All Burnet says is that William resolved to go over to Holland, and leave the government in the Queen's hands/ He does not say whether William meant to go to Holland temporarily or permanently, though the latter might not unnaturally be inferred from the way in which the story is introduced and related.

But Macaulay goes further than his authority and describes William as announcing 'his design of abdicating the government'. If he had known that for nearly a year William had been seriously meditating an expedition to France he would probably have estimated Burnet's story at its true value. But he did not know either the conversations between William and Halifax or the letters from William to Waldeck, or the references to the scheme that are contained in the diplomatic correspondence referred to by Klopp. All these have come to light since Macaulay wrote.

No doubt William, like other great men who had to struggle against extreme difficulties and bitter disappointments in the pursuit of public ends, sometimes

found his  
burden almost too heavy to be borne and  
talked of his  
desire for a private life and the charms of  
retirement—as  
Cromwell did. But a man who is conscious  
that a great  
cause depends upon him bears his burden to  
the end, what-  
ever expressions of weariness may escape  
him. There is a  
character of William, sent by the ambassador  
of Savoy to  
his master in 1690, which refers to some of  
these expressions,  
but the ambassador very wisely refrains from  
taking them  
seriously.